

People's forum

VIM

Slow solution affects the entire county

VIM Recycling first located in Goshen. Because of nuisance complaints from businesses and neighbors, it was told that storage and grinding could no longer operate at that site. This was all facilitated by the current county attorney to correct the situation. Prior county commissioners gave VIM the choice of moving to the Elkhart location. VIM president Ken Will did not obtain proper permits at the Elkhart site for what turned out to be an open dump of regulated wood products and mixed material. The property occupied by VIM is directly adjacent to a residential neighborhood.

The Baugo North Neighborhood Group joined together after the massive explosion and ensuing four-day fire at the Elkhart facility in June 2007. BNNG discovered, and brought to the attention of the county commissioners, zoning and planning boards, that this operation was in violation of county ordinances. It documented violations with IDEM.

In fall 2007, the BNNG was turned down in its bid to have these violations corrected. However, the zoning and planning boards realized the horse was out of the barn and came up with a spot change in the zoning ordinance. They created a way out for Mr. Will and gave him 30 days to apply for the newly created ruling to get the horse back in the barn or enforcement action would be taken against him. Mr. Will did not comply and continued to operate as usual. At the planning meeting in July 2008, I questioned a county official about setting a date for action to be taken by Mr. Will and if he didn't comply, granting him another extension. The answer was that the county would do anything to keep the situation out of the courts.

Work has been slow; however, the EPA has now mandated the removal and clean-up of the property. Elkhart County has allowed Mr. Will to dispose of thousands of tons of regulated waste at the county landfill for free, except for a \$2.10/ton state tax. All other

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haulers, abiding by the law, are being unfairly charged \$33.10/ton.

BNNG and others have been forced to the state and federal courts to rectify the political and protection game the county commissioners and courts have put us in. It could have been easily rectified if the established ordinances had been enforced. Now the cost and time escalates, affecting the whole county.

JOYCE BELLOWES
Elkhart

VIM should go the way of the shredder

I am happy for Elkhart residents that the shredder is now history, but we in the county have a similar problem with VIM. The company's shredder emits a putrid scent every day. I am hoping the federal government will close it down, too.

RICHARD E. SPANGLE
Elkhart

ECONOMY

We must adapt to the new world order

When the Depression happened, our parents and grandparents had to learn how to save money to make a purchase. They did not have the opportunity to build credit as we were able to, at least into 2008.

We, for the most, did not learn how to save money; credit was our way of life, it was there for most people — even for the ones who had less-than-perfect credit scores.

Today and year ago, the banks began to reduce credit limits, raise interest rates and, for some, cancel credit altogether. That was an eye-opener for most of us. How do we survive without credit, to buy certain items for necessity or for fun?

I have realized that we are living in a time that still is unstable in the banking industry, job industry and the real estate market.

Some people have lost jobs, homes and are living with family members and or living in a tent, RV or even under a bridge. What will become of

WHAT'S YOUR OPINION?

The Elkhart Truth invites reader opinions for the People's Forum. Put it in writing with your name, address and a daytime phone number. All Forum opinions may be edited for length or good taste. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. The writer's name is always printed. Forum opinions may be delivered to The Elkhart Truth or sent to:

People's Forum
P.O. Box 487
Elkhart, IN 46515
Fax 294-3895
peoplesforum@etruth.com

This is a place for compliments as well as complaints. We don't use personal thank-yous, but if you have an experience to share with readers, we'd like to print it. Short thank-yous are in order for public events.

For comments or questions about anything you see on this page, phone Gregory Halling, managing editor, at 296-5937.

that?

Our economy may seem to some that it is getting better, but I don't believe that is the case. The RV industry will never be the same, and people of the Elkhart area realize that. The banking industry is not giving out loans unless your score is better than perfect.

If you're completely in desperation, don't give up, for hope and faith within yourself will prevail, for we all must evolve to the change that is at hand. Let's help those who are less fortunate in any way; we all can make a difference.

For those who can save some change each day, it will make a difference in time. We must adapt to the new world order. If we don't, we will become out of control and chaos will create more turmoil and a city already in despair will descend downward to chaos.

To evolve is knowledge.

B.J. COUCH
Elkhart

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ter, is publisher of
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